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January 23, 2004

**MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION**

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

16834 U.S. PTO  
10/762532  
012304

Re: Application of Ayumu FUJITA, Etsuko KADOWAKI, Tomoyoshi HIGASHI,  
and Hiroshi UCHIDA

CATALYST FOR USE IN PRODUCING LOWER FATTY ACID ESTER,  
PROCESS FOR PRODUCING THE CATALYST, AND PROCESS FOR  
PRODUCING LOWER ALIPHATIC CARBOXYLIC ACID ESTER USING  
THE CATALYST

**Assignee: SHOWA DENKO K.K.**

Our Ref: Q79448

Dear Sir:

This is a request for a Divisional Application of pending prior Application No. 09/958,096 (Confirmation No.4871) filed October 5, 2001 of Ayumu FUJITA, Etsuko KADOWAKI, Tomoyoshi HIGASHI, and Hiroshi UCHIDA entitled CATALYST FOR USE IN PRODUCING LOWER FATTY ACID ESTER, PROCESS FOR PRODUCING THE CATALYST, AND PROCESS FOR PRODUCING LOWER ALIPHATIC CARBOXYLIC ACID ESTER USING THE CATALYST, which is a National Stage of PCT/JP01/07708 filed September 5, 2001, which claims benefit of Provisional Application No. 60/238,436 filed October 10, 2000.

This application is being filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b). Enclosed is a specification, including the claims and abstract (51) pages, and a copy of the Declaration (4 pages) as filed in the prior application. Also enclosed is an Information Disclosure Statement, and a PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) listing references cited by applicant and/or the examiner during prosecution of the prior application.

The prior application is assigned to Group Art Unit 1755.

Priority is claimed from Japanese Application No. 2000-271415 filed on September 7, 2000 and benefit is claimed from U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/238,436 filed on October 10, 2000.



The Government filing fee is calculated as follows:

Total claims	<u>14</u>	-	<u>20</u>	=	<u>          </u>	x	\$18.00	=	<u>          </u>	\$0.00
Independent claims	<u>1</u>	-	<u>3</u>	=	<u>          </u>	x	\$86.00	=	<u>          </u>	\$0.00
Base Fee										<u>\$770.00</u>

**TOTAL FILING FEE**

**\$770.00**

A check for the statutory fee of \$770.00 is attached. The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this transmittal letter is attached.

The application is timely filed.

Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC  
Attorneys for Applicant

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